

Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Original)* A method for preparing a fluorocarbon elastomeric base composition comprising:

(I) mixing

(A) a silicone base comprising a curable organopolysiloxane,

(B) an optional crosslinking agent,

(C) a cure agent,

to form a silicone compound;

(II) mixing the silicone compound with

(D) a fluorocarbon elastomer,

(E) an optional compatibilizer,

(F) an optional catalyst;

and

(III) dynamically vulcanizing the silicone compound,

wherein the weight ratio of fluorocarbon elastomer (D) to silicone base (A) in the elastomeric base composition ranges from 95:5 to 30:70.

2. *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the silicone base comprises;

(A') a diorganopolysiloxane containing at least 2 alkenyl groups having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, and

(A'') an optional reinforcing filler.

3. *(Original)* The method of claim 2 wherein the crosslinking agent is present and is an organohydrido silicon compound.

4. *(Original)* The method of claim 3 wherein the cure agent is a platinum catalyst.

5. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the cure agent is a free radical initiator.

6. *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorocarbon elastomer comprises a copolymer of vinylidene fluoride and hexafluoropropene, a copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene and propylene, a terpolymer of vinylidene fluoride, hexafluoropropene, and tetrafluoroethylene, or a terpolymer of vinylidene fluoride, tetrafluoroethylene, and perfluoromethylvinyl ether.

7. *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the compatibilizer (E) is present and is selected from;

- (E¹) an organic compounds which contain 2 or more olefin groups,
- (E²) organopolysiloxanes containing at least 2 alkenyl groups,
- (E³) olefin-functional silanes which also contain at least one hydrolyzable group or at least one hydroxyl group attached to a silicon atom thereof,
- (E⁴) an organopolysiloxane having at least one organofunctional groups selected from amine, amide, isocyanurate, phenol, acrylate, epoxy, and thiol groups,
- (E⁵), a dehydrofluorination agent,

and any combinations of (E¹), (E²), (E³), (E⁴) and (E⁵).

8. *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the catalyst (F) is present and is selected from an organic peroxide.

9. *(Currently amended)* The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 —8 wherein steps II and III are performed in an extruder.

10. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 9 wherein steps II and III are performed in an extruder in <2 minutes.

11. *(Currently amended)* A fluorocarbon elastomeric base composition produced ~~by any one of~~ according to the method of claims 1 to 10.

12. *(Original)* A cured fluorocarbon elastomer composition prepared from the product of claim 11.

13. *(Original)* An article of manufacture comprising the cured fluorocarbon elastomer of claim 12.